



U.S. Department of Justice

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 13, 2003

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**MANCHESTER WOMAN, MOTHER OF TWO CO-DEFENDANTS, CONVICTED OF
FEDERAL CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

Re: United States v. Marleena Rice

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, and Manchester Police Chief Mark Driscoll announced that MARLEENA RICE of Manchester, date of birth, August 21, 1962, was convicted today of crack cocaine distribution charges.

RICE was arrested by Manchester and New Hampshire State Police officers on October 15, 2002, along with ten others, including her sons Raheem "Ruckus" Rice and Garry Rice, as part of their joint "Operation Beantown" investigation, so named because of its focus on alleged Boston-based drug traffickers that had relocated to Manchester.

RICE entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Joseph A. DiClerico, Jr. to an information alleging that she distributed cocaine base, also known as "crack cocaine," in Manchester on August 21, 2002, and was released by Judge DiClerico pending a sentencing hearing scheduled for April 14, 2003. RICE faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level crack dealers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire's other larger cities. Operation Beantown is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our urban neighborhoods and their residents. This Office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

The conviction resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department's Special Investigations Unit and the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.